

[SRP file copy]

DWP—

11:24.84
11:40 A.M.
Eekdale

Saturday morning: I have just now completed the "beginning of the day" routine (get up, go out back, brisk walk around the grounds, bathe, prepare a breakfast tray, dress, select an early morning concert -- Charles Luen's "Concord Sonata," as performed by Gilbert Kalish) and have already prepared a second cup of tea in one of the two large China cups that I bought in Forest City this summer. Bright sun; very cold outside. Wouldn't Charles Luen love the Eekdale Baptist Church! If "this" isn't the American spirit / the American pioneer adventure than what is. I am about to effect some integrations in PN-I-78 -- including the genealogical materials contained on pp. 128, 133 & 134 of your 1979 letter to me. As I read over those three pages (April 7, 12 & 13, 1979) it suddenly occurred to me -- and I can't believe that it has never come to me before -- that not unlike world history or American history or European history or any of the "big deal" histories, which are invariably written by "the victors", family history is almost always written by "the victors", and so one comes across such statements as the following two, for example, by HLRP, which you report on your pages 128 & 133, respectively:

1) HLRP on Malcom Cameron: "He always rode a motorcycle." (now missing) "What was there about Malcom Cameron. He was kind of wild; he rode a motorcycle."

(The above quote is obviously a little serventure and I would not go citing it to HLRP or including it in SRP.)

2.

2) HLRP says that Aunt May was a "fly by night", an "amount to nothing."

I don't know about you, but as I read those two statements made by one of the so-called "victors" I get so mad that I could veritably scream. Can you imagine where we would fit into a family history -- and in what light we would be presented, if at all -- if it were written by someone other than ourselves! What I should do is go through PN... and all my genealogical notes and gather together the names of all the "rebels" / "black sheep" / "non-concentric individuals" and list them on a dedicatory page: "These are the individuals whose story -- were this history not written by a 'rebel' -- would not be told herein, because they committed the unpardonable sin of 'marching to the beat of a different drummer' than the drummer employed by the 'victors'." Who are they: E.P.J., E.J.W., Aunt May, Malcom Cameron, Maggie & Sam Jones, Marie Russell, Donald Powell, S. Robert Powell, for example, among many others. Certainly:

One significant quality of the family history that is being written in this generation, of course, is that it is being written by two of the grandest rebels in the whole tree -- DWP and SRP. It is not the "what" that makes human life interesting, it's the "how" and the "why" and the "when" ^{for example} the adverbial considerations. Using only flour, water, yeast and salt you can make the most prosaic and the most un-interesting "wonder-bread" or you can -- focusing on the adverb -- make the most sublime French bread. It's wholly